CLAIMS

1. A method for realizing metering pulses in the Next Generation Network (NGN), comprising the steps of:

A. delivering from a media gateway controller to a media gateway a metering pulse information message;

B. obtaining by the media gateway the number of metering pulses to be transmitted and a transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses according to the information message; and

C. transmitting the metering pulses periodically to a user equipment according to the obtained number of metering pulses to be transmitted and transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

terminating the transmission of the metering pulses when the media gateway detects an event or when the media gateway controller delivers an information message for interrupting the metering pulses.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

transmitting the metering pulses according to the transmission interval and the number of the metering pulses to be transmitted as specified by a new metering pulse information message upon the reception of the new metering pulse information message.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the type of the metering pulses is an On/Off or Brief signal, and

if the type of the metering pulses is the On/Off signal, the transmission of the metering pulses is continued until being terminated,; and

if the type of the metering pulses is the Brief signal ,the transmission of the metering pulses comes to an end after all the metering pulses, the number of which is as specified, have been transmitted.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the user equipment is a digital telephone.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the metering pulses are defined as following:

the signal type of the metering pulses is an On/Off signal, and the pulse type and the duration are provision variables;

the parameter type of Pulse Count of a first signal parameter is an integer which is the number of pulses, the possible values are non-negative integers and may be default; and

the parameter type of Pulse Interval of a second signal parameter is an integer in millisecond, the possible values are positive integers and may not be default.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the metering pulse information message comprises two parameters, and

the value of the first parameter indicates the number of the metering pulses to be transmitted; and

the value of the second parameter indicates a total duration of the metering pulses to be transmitted.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses is:

the value of the second parameter divided by the value of the first parameter, in the case the first parameter is larger than zero; or

the value of the second parameter, in the case the first parameter is zero or unspecified.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the metering pulse information message comprises two parameters, and

the value of the first parameter indicates the number of the metering pulses to be transmitted; and

the value of the second parameter indicates a transmission interval between the metering pulses to be transmitted.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of providing in the media gateway the number of the metering pulses to be transmitted and the transmission interval between two adjacent metering pulses.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of: configuring the provision number of the metering pulses to be transmitted and interval between adjacent metering pulses in a plurality of groups, and selecting one among the groups according to an indication of the metering pulse information message.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the information message is a Media Gateway Control Protocol message.